

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-165 (canceled).

166. (currently amended) A toner container configured to be connected with a nozzle comprising an air ~~outlet~~ inlet portion through which air flows into the toner container by way of an air conduit, said air inlet portion being configured to surround a toner outlet portion of the nozzle, and a hole through which toner is replenished to a developing section by way of a toner conduit, said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle; and

an air filter ~~window in one of a bottom and a wall~~ of said toner container and is disposed at a position opposite to said air inlet portion of said nozzle.

167. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, wherein when said toner container is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm³) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm³ or less.

168. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, wherein said air is blown by an air pump into the toner container and said toner is sucked by a suction pump out of the toner container.

169. (currently amended) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, wherein each of said nozzle is formed with a tubular toner outlet portion having and the air outlet inlet and the hole portion is tubular, and said tubular air inlet portion surrounds said tubular toner outlet portion.

170. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, wherein said toner container is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of said toner container.

171. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, further comprising a toner outlet through which toner is discharged from said toner container.

172. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 171, wherein said mating portion allows said toner outlet to remain in a mating position with said nozzle, and said mating portion forms a sealing enclosure between the toner outlet and the nozzle.

173. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 172, wherein said mating portion includes an elastic member, and said elastic member forms a hermetically closed seal between said toner outlet and said nozzle.

174. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 171, wherein said toner outlet comprises a tubular body.

175. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 171~~ configured to be connected with a nozzle, further said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle;

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container;

a toner outlet through which toner is discharged from said toner container; and

a side wall connecting said bottom of said toner container and said toner outlet, wherein said side wall includes a tapered structure having a decreasing cross section in a direction toward said toner outlet.

176. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 175, wherein said toner outlet comprises a tubular body, and a surface of said side wall forming said tapered structure is inclined relative to a section of said tubular body by an angle of about 45 degrees to about 90 degrees.

177. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 175, wherein said toner outlet comprises a tubular body, said toner container has at least four sides, and at least one of said at least four sides forms said side wall which is inclined relative to a section of said tubular body by less than 90 degrees.

178. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 171~~ configured to be connected with a nozzle, further said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle;

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container; and

a toner outlet through which toner is discharged from said toner container,

wherein when said toner container is mounted to an image forming apparatus, said toner outlet is at a lower end of said toner container, and the toner is drawn out from said toner container through the toner outlet, at least in part by gravitational force.

179. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 166~~ configured to be connected with a nozzle, said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle; and

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container

wherein when said toner container is mounted to an image forming apparatus, a mouth of said toner container faces a downward direction.

180. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, wherein said toner is stored in said toner container.

181. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, further comprising: a sack formed of a flexible material; and a toner outlet through which the toner can be discharged from said sack.

182. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 181, wherein said sack is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of said sack.

183. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 181~~ configured to be

connected with a nozzle, further said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle;

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container;

a sack formed of a flexible material;

a toner outlet through which the toner can be discharged from said sack; and

position preserving means for preserving a position of said sack.

184. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 166~~ configured to be connected with a nozzle, further said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle;

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container;

a sack formed of a flexible material;

a toner outlet through which the toner can be discharged from said sack; and

position preserving means for preserving a position of said sack, wherein said position preserving means comprises a box-like member surrounding an entire periphery of said sack.

185. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 166, further comprising: a sack formed of a flexible material; and a toner outlet through which the toner can be discharged from said sack, wherein said sack is deformable in accordance with air pressure to thereby vary a capacity of said sack.

186. (currently amended) A toner container ~~as claimed in claim 166~~ configured to be connected with a nozzle, further said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with the nozzle;

an air filter window in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container;

a sack formed of a flexible material; and

a toner outlet through which the toner can be discharged from said sack, wherein said toner outlet is provided with a fitting portion which is fitted in said sack.

187. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 186, wherein said fitting portion of said toner outlet has a ship-like cross section.

188. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 186, wherein said toner outlet is provided with a flange which is disposed between said fitting portion and said toner outlet.

189. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 181, wherein said toner is stored in said toner container.

190. (currently amended) A toner container configured to be connected with a nozzle comprising an air ~~outlet~~ inlet through which air from an air pump flows into the toner container by way of an air conduit, said air inlet being configured to surround a toner outlet of the nozzle, and a hole through which toner sucked by a suction pump is replenished to a developing section by way of a toner conduit, said toner container comprising:

a mating portion for allowing said toner container to mate with said nozzle; and

an air filter ~~window~~ in one of a bottom and a wall of said toner container and is disposed

at a position opposite to said air inlet of said nozzle.

191. (previously presented) A toner container as claimed in claim 190, wherein when said toner container is packed with toner to a packing density determined by dividing a weight (g) of the toner by a capacity (cm^3) of said toner container, said packing density is 0.7 g/cm^3 or less.